
SAF Co-President's letter

Dear Friends of the Sensory Awareness Foundation,

If an organization is to survive it has to be responsive to the conditions in and around it, much like a living organism. Like a living being which consumes nutrients from its environment and breathes air to sustain its metabolism, an organization can only stay alive if it is in dialogue with the world. The SAF has been in an ongoing process of "Finding its Stature" for a few years now. This process has naturally become more acute since Charlotte's death nearly two years ago. We are faced with many questions as to how best continue our work.

A few years ago, we asked the business consultant Tai Sheridan to join us for a weekend of inquiry and outlook. This weekend prompted some important changes in the way the SAF board of Directors works and it also brought about a number of changes in the composition of the board. In the years since, a number of people have come and gone and have enriched this organization with their unique qualities. Most recently, Albert Moreno, who was a board member for years, resigned. He brought to the board not only an independent and professional approach to handle the realities of a non-profit organization but has also been an invaluable consultant in legal affairs. Albert is about to retire and will spend much of his time in Mexico. We are very grateful that he will continue to help us on a project basis. Thank you, Albert, for your genuine care for our work. We all wish you a fulfilling new stage of your life!



As one person leaves, another comes and brings fresh air to our organization. It is with great pleasure that we introduce to you in this newsletter Tai Sheridan as the new co-president of the Sensory Awareness Foundation. We had recently asked him to join us for another day of inquiry. (Tai has a professional background in organizational development and has consulted with boards of directors for twenty-five years. As an ordained Zen student he also has an affinity for our practice and has taken workshops with Charlotte and Charles. He also has designed and built our new website.) In the course of the day, Tai challenged us to take a deep look at the past, present and possible future of Sensory Awareness and its respective organizations, the Sensory Awareness Foundation and the Sensory Awareness Leaders Guild. Our work with him was so inspiring that we asked him not only join the board but to share the presidency with me. I had for some time voiced the desire to step back from this post and make way for "fresh air". Having been both president and manager of the SAF for more than nine years, I believe that change is necessary for both the Foundation and myself, as I wish to fully concentrate on offering the work. However, we decided that, in this time of transition, it would be best if I continue on for a while but with a partner at my side. I will also keep managing the organization and take care of the day-to-day business together with our faithful secretary, Sara Gordon.

This time of transition is both exciting and challenging. We invite you to join us on this journey. One way of doing this is by supporting the SAF with your membership. We need your financial support in order to continue our work. If you are currently not a member, please consider joining our efforts in this way. Another way to accompany us is by working with one of the Sensory Awareness leaders. This work is not only a teaching that goes one way. It is a joint inquiry, collaboration between leaders and students. See the enclosed Leaders Guild schedule for more information on workshops, classes and individual sessions. **We also urge you, especially as members of the SAF, to join us in our quest to "rediscover our stature". In his letter, Tai Sheridan asks some very potent questions. Please share your responses with us, write us or talk to a Sensory Awareness leader when you take a workshop.** We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Stefan Laeng-Gilliatt

SAF Newsletter

Editing & Design: Stefan Laeng-Gilliatt
Send your comments to: St. Laeng-Gilliatt, 2300 W Alameda
St. A3, Santa Fe, NM 87574; email: stelaeng@msn.com
The deadline for the next newsletter is September 30, 2005.
© 2005 Sensory Awareness Foundation
955 Vernal Ave., Mill Valley, CA 94941
www.sensoryawareness.org